14, 1877, John Watkins was set apart as First Counselor to David Van Wagenen who was appointed Bishop of Midway.

Building was John Watkin's line of work, so he had charge of the building and decorating of the new rock meeting house which was built on the old public square.

In January, 1893, Bishop Van Wagenen asked for his release as Bishop, and Apostle John Henry Smith came out to Midway. He stayed at the home of John Watkins as the visiting authorities always did. On the way to church in the afternoon, he told John Watkins he was there to reorganize the ward and he was to be the Bishop. He chose Alva J. Alexander as First Counselor and Conrad Abbegglen as Second Counselor. He was ordained Bishop by Apostle John Henry Smith on January 29, 1893.

Bishop Watkins was a very forceful speaker. No one went to sleep in church while he was preaching. He was thoroughly converted in his beliefs and fearlessly and firmly presented them to others. He knew the Golden Rule and lived by it.

His duties as Bishop were many, caring for the poor and needy. At the time it was a great responsibility because so many emigrants arrived in need of work and help. The tithing was also a problem in those days, because it was paid in produce instead of cash and was anything people happened to raise. Sometimes things were not even saleable, but had to be accounted for in cash. They came in all hours of the day and someone had to be ready to weigh the hay, measure wheat or potatoes, see that they were properly protected from frost and weather. Many times produce had to be hauled to Park City to be converted into cash. Eggs, butter, chickens, fruit and cattle, all had to be taken care of until sold.

John Watkins served a number of years as select man of Wasatch County. He, with the help of Alva J. Alexander, engineered the Midway Waterworks System, and he became the first president. He built the first suspension bridge over the Provo River between Midway and Heber which gave good service with repairs on it until 1948 when it was replaced by a cement bridge.

He located the present cemetery site and with the assistance of Alva J. Alexander surveyed and platted it. At first it was owned and maintained by the Ecclesiastical ward, but later was turned over to the Midway Town.

When people died in the community at a time when coffins were hard to get, John Watkins built them of pine lumber and lined them with soft fluffy cotton and covered it with silk and trimmed the sides with lace. The outside was covered with velvet.

After a useful and busy life he passed away after a severe illness, December 23, 1902, and was buried on Christmas Day.

Margaret braved all the trials and sufferings of early pioneer life. She learned to be a midwife, and went among the people giving help and comfort wherever needed. Many people were too poor to pay for her services. No night was too dark and no storm too severe for her to brave to give relief to a woman in distress. On one occasion an Indian, by the name of Fisherman, came for her in the middle of the night. His wife was very ill in the wickiup on the Provo River Bottoms near Utah Lake. The Indian thought his squaw was going to die. Margaret went with him and was able to save his squaw and the little papoose. This happened during the troublesome times with the Indians. Sometime later the Indians planned an attack on Fort Midway. This Indian, Fisherman, crawled for several miles through the swamps and rushes in the river bottoms to warn the Watkins family of danger. Through this warning the settlers were prepared and drove the Indians back when they made the attack.

When the Watkins family moved to Midway, Margaret helped with all the pioneering of that section, helping the sick and needy. She was much in demand being the only midwife there and was called "Aunty" by the community. She was the mother of eight children. She died at Midway at the age of 74, and was buried in the Midway Cemetery.

Children of John Watkins and Margaret Ackhurst:

Mrs. Charles Edward (Elizabeth) Allen
John Thomas, married Mary Maria Clift
Edward, married Margaretha Abplanalp
Mrs. Nicholas (Mary) Andrews
Samuel Richard, died in infancy
Alfred, married Lenora Lewis
Fredrick, died in infancy
Charles, died at birth

Betsy, a half-sister of Harriet, married Thomas Alsop and they made their home near Salt Lake. Harriet lived with them. John Watkins and his wife, Margaret, visited the Alsops and met Harriet who was a



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young, attractive girl. John Watkins asked Harriet to be his second wife. She consented and went to Provo to live with her husband and Margaret. John soon built a new house for his two wives and children. In 1865, they moved to Midway. Harriet was a kind, capable woman who loved her family and was devoted to her children. She was patient and wise. Her high intelligence was passed on to her offspring. On the night of March 10, 1884 one of the worst blizzards that had ever occurred in Midway raged over the valley. The snow drifts piled high. It seemed that the very end of the world had come. Harriet was frantic with fear. On the morning of the 11th, ill with labor pains, she gave birth to a baby son, Archie. Just when they thought everything was all right, quietly and peacefully, she died, leaving her little one-hour old baby.

Children of John Watkins and Harriet Steel:

Henry, married Jane Ellis Alder
David James, died in childhood
Lorenzo John, died in infancy
Arthur, married Emily Adelia Gerber
Mrs. John Edward (Laura) Clift
William, married Mary Elizabeth Busby
Mrs. John (Maria) Morton
Eva, died in infancy
Frank, married Esabel McKowen
Albert Ernest, married Mary Hannah Harrison
Sylvanus, married 1. Daisy Box, 2. Jessie Gills
Harriet Amy, died in infancy
Archie, married Julia Edna McCaffarty.

Mary Ann Sawyer Watkins, with her parents, joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Swansea, Wales.

Mary Ann Sawyer crossed the ocean with her mother and father and her ten-year-old sister on the sailing vessel "Samuel S. Curlin" in 1856. It was a long, slow voyage. Her father, Joseph Sawyer, cooked for the passengers to pay their passage to New York. Later the family moved to the New Jersey side, to a town called Tomas River which was a very historical place during the Revolutionary War. It had many industries and the opportunities for work were much better.

The Sawyers were anxious to emigrate to Utah to join the Latter-day Saints, so Mary Ann and her sister, Henrietta, picked cranberries and huckleberries in the bogs earning money to add to the fund for emigrating to Utah.

James Brown and his brother, Sam, hauled freight to Salt Lake City, took contracts to assemble ox teams and covered wagons for the trip. James offered to bring the Sawyers to Utah if Mary Ann's father, Joseph Sawyer, would work all winter for him without pay, drive and care for two yoke of oxen and a covered wagon load of freight for this service. Mary Ann's mother rode in the wagon, but the father and the two girls had to walk all the way and help drive the loose stock. The possessions they could take included some bedding, a few dishes, cooking utensils, clothing and food.

Joseph Sawyer fulfilled his part of the contract and expected to leave in the spring of 1860; but James Brown refused to take him in the first company, and he had to come a few weeks later with the next company.

Jesse Murphy was captain of the company. They had a hard, tiresome trip as was common to the pioneers, on one occasion they were attacked by Indians, but were miraculously saved and left unharmed. They arrived in Salt Lake City late in the summer of 1860. There they lived for some time enduring hardship and privation.

Mary Ann's father managed to buy a lot in the business section of Salt Lake City. When the family moved to Provo, her father sold the lot for a bushel of potatoes and a pair of secondhand shoes.

After they moved to Provo, they soon became active in all the pioneer activities of the community. Mary Ann and her sister, Henrietta, were very attractive young women and became very popular in social activities.

At this time John Watkins was leader of the Provo Brass Band and very popular in musical circles. He became attracted to Mary Ann, and married her as his third wife with full consent of his two wives.

Mary Ann took an active part in Church affairs of the town. She suffered all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, helping in the fields, gleaning wheat, and assisting in every way possible. She took an active part in civic affairs. She had a good voice and was active in concerts, choirs and early dramas of the town and county.

For many years she was counselor to Charlotte Gurney in the Midway Relief Society. At the death of Sister Gurney she

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became president of the organization in 1892 and served in that capacity until 1903.

Her responsibilities were great, caring for the poor and needy, sewing for and taking care of the dead, as there were no undertakers in those days, and she sang at most of the funerals.

When Harriet died, she left nine motherless children, one only an hour old. Mary Ann took the entire family and became mother to them. In addition, she had eleven children of her own, making a total of twenty children she had to mother.

When her husband, John Watkins, became Bishop, it added many new responsibilities for her, but she never complained. She had a cheerful disposition, radiated sunshine wherever she went, making many friends.

After the death of John Watkins, she sold the home at Midway and moved to Salt Lake where she later married John Halbom. She died at Salt Lake City and was buried in the Wasatch Lawn Cemetery.

Children of John Watkins and Mary Ann Sawyer:

Joseph Watkins, married Elinor Blood
Thomas John Edward, died in infancy
Walter, died in youth
Mrs. Fredrick (Henrietta) Barben
Mrs. William (Mary Ann) Schaer
George Tranham Watkins, married Sarah Frances Ohlwiler
Mrs. Edward A. (Margaret) Probst
Mrs. Orson Thomas (Sarah Ruby) Speirs
Nymphus Jay, married Estella Thomas
Tracy Sawyer, married Hannah Florence Young
Mrs. Keros Harry (Lily) Serle.